

CANADA IN 1898.

The situation in Canada as the year of grace 1898 drew to a close is well and accurately described in a recent article in the London (Eng.) Chronicle, where the writer says:—"Canada, after years of stagnation, has, in the hands of a progressive and most enlightened statesmanship, sprung forward in the path of progress. Nature has, no doubt, been bounteous to her, far more bounteous, we suspect, than the average Englishman imagines. She has the finest wheat-growing area in the world. 'You can draw, east and west, a straight furrow in fertile land for a thousand miles, and north and south for five hundred,' said a Canadian statesman the other day. Canada's commercial wealth promises to make her as rich as she is industrious. Mighty forests, giant rivers, swarming with fish, lakes that are inland seas—all these treasures lie in the hands of a people happily blended of the great races of the world; hardy, virtuous and self-contained, and developing freely under the easy and sensible rules of British Government. And Canada, long thwarted in her commercial relations with America, has turned her thoughts to her ocean-borne and English commerce with astounding effects. She has opened up new industries, new ways and methods of bringing her fruits to the gates of Europe. Her trade is going up by leaps and bounds, with the result that the tide of emigration to the States has ceased, and is even flowing back across the border. And her statesmanship has kept pace with her commercial genius. The first lines of Imperial federation have been laid down for us by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues. The tone of Canadian public life has greatly risen with the beating down of at least the worst fallacies of protection, that parent of corruption in States. The Liberal party, obscured for the moment in Great Britain, has founded a new school of thought in our colonies. Radical Imperialism has found a safe, a sober, a most brilliant expression in the great Dominion."

The Progress of Imperialism.

Progress in that great scheme of consolidating the Empire, which is here re-

ferred to, and which was inaugurated in the memorable Jubilee proceedings in 1897, has been one of the distinguishing features of the year. Not only has preferential trade, as enunciated in the spring of 1897, come into full operation, but a second great step was taken when in the late summer the announcement was made that Imperial penny postage had been conceded, at the instance of the Canadian Government, and would come into operation on Christmas Day.

The denunciation of the German and Belgian treaties, an outcome of the preferential tariff, was hailed with satisfaction throughout the old country and Canada received full credit for having brought it about. The position of the Dominion in the general scheme of Imperial defence has also excited very much attention in the Imperial War and Admiralty Offices, and an Imperial Defence Commission has been engaged for several months thoroughly investigating the matter in various parts of the Dominion. In the old days, before Confederation, Great Britain not infrequently took occasion to remind Canada, and that, too, not always in the kindest spirit, that it cost a million pounds sterling, or thereabouts, to maintain her land defences. That was in the days when the teachings of the Manchester School prevailed, and the Imperial statesman who declared that the colonies were an incubus, and could have their independence for the asking, found many willing and approving listeners. But the matter of defence has changed with other things, and today Canada not only maintains her defences without cost to the Imperial Government, but she has built a railway which might at any moment become a most important factor in the scheme of Imperial defence, for Canada's Imperialism and loyalty are from the heart, and not of the lips only.

The importance of rendering every assistance to Canada in developing her natural resources and her commercial interests is fully appreciated by the Imperial authorities, as shown by their action in not only approving of the negotiations which have resulted in the Quebec Conference, but also in sending as the Imperial representative one of the foremost statesmen of the empire.